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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Serpentes, Leptotyphlopidae, *Siagonodon brasiliensis* (Laurent, 1949): Distribution extension and geographic distribution map

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ABSTRACT: The known geographic distribution of *Siagonodon brasiliensis* is restricted to three locations in the Brazilian Cerrado, in Piauí, Bahia and Minas Gerais states. I present here a new record for this species in Minas Gerais. One specimen of *S. brasiliensis* was collected at Fazenda Sant'Ana, municipality of João Pinheiro, northwest Minas Gerais, on a plateau area with sandy soil covered with Cerrado stricto sensu. The available information suggests that this species may be specialized in that kind of habitat. Pholidosis, morphometric and color characters of the collected specimen are presented.

Recently 106 species were recognized in the genus *Leptotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 (Serpentes, Leptotyphlopidae), of which 14 occur in Brazil (SBH 2008; Uetz and Hallermann 2008). A new classification was proposed for Leptotyphlopidae and the genus *Siagonodon* Peters, 1881 was revalidated to accommodate four species previously classified as *Leptotyphlops*: *S. borrichianus* (Degerbøl, 1923), *S. brasiliensis* (Laurent, 1949), *S. cupinensis* (Bailey and Carvalho, 1946) and *S. septemstriatus* (Schneider, 1801) (Adalsteinsson *et al.* 2009). *Siagonodon brasiliensis* was described based on a single specimen from "Brazil" (Laurent 1949). Rodrigues and Puorto (1994) reported on a specimen from "Barreiras" in the state of Bahia and suggested that the species was possibly associated with the Cerrado biome. *Siagonodon brasiliensis* was subsequently recorded from a second locality in the Cerrado, in Estação Ecológica de Uruçuí-Una, southeastern state of Piauí, where four specimens were collected on an area of well-preserved Cerrado *stricto sensu* in a high plateau ("Chapada") with sandy soils (Curcio *et al.* 2002). These authors suggested that this species could be restricted to the northern part of Cerrado. However, more recently *S. brasiliensis* was registered in municipality of Três Marias, state of Minas Gerais, also in Cerrado, but in its southeastern portion (Pinto *et al.* 2005).

Here I present a new record of *S. brasiliensis* in the state of Minas Gerais. During an herpetofaunal survey (IBAMA's collect authorization number #14249-1) conducted at the municipality of João Pinheiro, in the Cerrado of northwestern Minas Gerais, an adult male of *S. brasiliensis* (Figures 1 and 2) was collected on 22 January 2009 at Fazenda Sant'Ana (17°48'14" S, 46°08'29" W, 847 m above sea level) by A. L. Silveira. The specimen was caught in pitfall traps with drift fences located on a plateau area ("Chapada") with sandy soils covered with Cerrado *stricto sensu* (Figure 3), close to a spring with "Vereda" (a phytofisionomy composed of palm *Mauritia flexuosa* L. f. emerging on bushes, surrounded by grasslands, which develops on hydromorphic soil – Ribeiro and Walter 1998) . The area was moderately preserved, despite being near the municipality of João Pinheiro. The specimen was deposited in the Coleção de Répteis do Museu Nacional/ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ 17802).

FIGURE 1. Specimen of *Siagonodon brasiliensis* collected in João Pinheiro, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

FIGURE 2. Head details of the *Siagonodon brasiliensis* specimen collected in João Pinheiro, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

The record on João Pinheiro extends the known distribution of *S. brasiliensis* about 100 km northwest of Três Marias (Figure 4). The habitat where *S. brasiliensis* was collected in João Pinheiro is very similar to that of the snake recorded at the Estação Ecológica de Uruçuí-Una, state of Piauí. Like in Barreiras, state of Bahia, and Três Marias, state of Minas Gerais, all these sites are situated in highland plateaus with sandy soils covered by Cerrado *stricto sensu*. This suggests that the species may be specialized to that kind of habitat.

Figure 3. Cerrado *stricto sensu* where *Siagonodon brasiliensis* was collected in João Pinheiro, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Pholidosis, morphometric and color characters of the specimen from João Pinheiro were compared (in parenthesis) with those previously described for *S. brasiliensis* (Rodrigues and Puorto 1994; Curcio *et al.* 2002). The new specimen has 14 scales around body, 10 around mid-tail, 191 post-rostral scales, 187 dorsal scales (193 to 210 in the other specimens, of which 193 to 197 in males), 18 subcaudals (15-19, 18-19 in males), 3 supralabials on both sides (2-3), 4 infralabials in both sides (4), absence of supraocular, total length: 225 mm (143-248, 184-203 in males), tail length: 19.44 mm (12-17, 15-17 in males), mid-body diameter: 5.90 mm (3.84-5.17, 3.87-5.14 in males). The new specimen presents a fewer number of dorsal scales, greater length of tail and larger diameter of mid-body.

Regarding coloration, the new specimen shows an uniform brown dorsum and a slightly lighter brown collar; pinkish venter, except the cloacal region which is cream whitish with a little brown pigmentation; the lower portion of upper lip scales is cream, and the upper portion and anterior edge are brown; infralabial scales are cream with a little brown subtle punctuation.

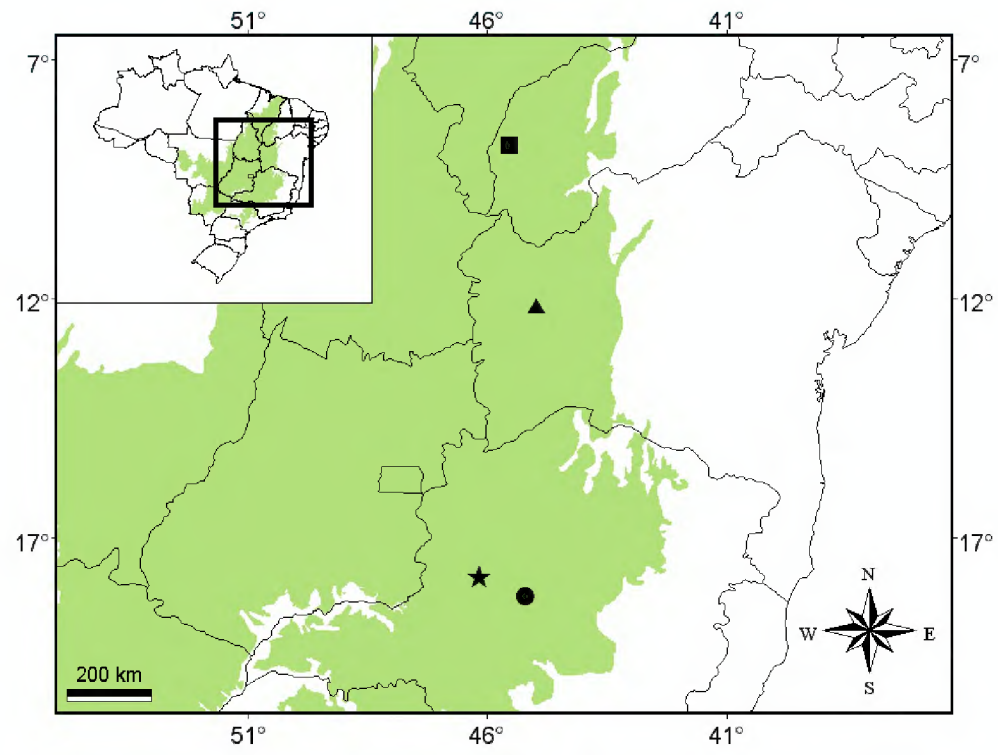

Figure 4. Recorded localities of *Siagonodon brasiliensis* in Brazilian Cerrado: square – Estação Ecológica de Uruçuí-Una, Piauí; triangle – Barreiras, Bahia; circle – Três Marias, Minas Gerais; star – João Pinheiro, Minas Gerais (new record).

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